

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council November 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: November 4, 2021 4–6 PM: Meeting recorded to be posted online.

Subcommittee Members Present: Sarah Phillips, Sue Minter, Iris Hsiang, Mona Tolba, Beverly Little Thunder, Kashka Orlow, Kelly Klein, Danielle Bombardier
Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Amanda Carlson, Abbey Willard, Ross MacDonald, Claire McIlvennie, Cori Rockefeller

- 4:00 PM Welcome & Check-in Approval of Agenda and Minutes from 10/21/21 – **Approved**
- 4:13 PM Public Comments - Special invitation to organizations proactively working to engage impacted communities in conversations around climate change.
- ❖ Vanessa Rule from 350VT spoke, the people she represents back aggressively getting off fossil fuels while redressing social inequities. **350VT hosted in-person and online forums, 288 in-person attendees at community conversations, 2800 signed postcards sent to council**
 - Acknowledgement that their base is middle class, affluent and white
Reoccurring themes:
 - Listen to the people
 - Move away from car culture
 - People who want to be part of the solution can't afford to be part of it – rebates don't work
 - Make it easy, reduce bureaucracy
 - Solutions that build resiliency, localize solutions
 - Affordable housing
 - Solutions not driven by industry
 - ❖ Pat Sagui spoke
 - Shared UVM study about energy gaps in VT
 - Proposed that no policy or action is passed in climate action plan unless it has been vetted through Just Transitions Guiding Principles
 - ❖ Indra Acharya spoke about his work for CAP agencies
 - They have hosted 7 virtual forums, one in-person event, survey created in plain language – virtual forums don't work for the lowest income communities – in-person outreach works best
 - People are seeing the effects of climate: hotter weather, more ticks
 - Grounding the conversation in everyday effects
 - ❖ Kashka Orlow reflected on her outreach with CAP agencies
 - The conversation has to change, it has to start with how the changing climate effects existing financial burdens, health problems
 - Spoke about survey she created, and how she converted climate council wording to language that resonated with low-income communities

- ❖ Elizabeth Parenteau spoke about late stage capitalism and its embedment in white supremacy

5:00 PM “Just Transitions & Equity Considerations in Implementation” Section for the Climate Action Plan

- Sarah walked subcommittee through document that will be incorporated into climate action plan
- Members brought up items that were missing and revisions

5:45 PM Updates

- Reporting Back from Other Sub Committees, Steering Committee & Full Council
 - Abbey spoke about UVM Center of Engagement and working with them to identify data gaps
 - Kiah Morris updated subcommittee that there will be an evaluation form that asks council members about their experience using Guiding Principles and that she will write a report about her work for the council
- Additional Updates from Director Lazorchak
 - Developing a monitoring and assessing framework for the council
 - Jane shared that full council is doing a lot of work and holding extra meetings up until the 12/1/21 final date

6:05 PM Adjourn